

Approved Bison Quarantine Facilities

A group or individual may establish an approved bison quarantine facility (ABQF) to provide testing for brucellosis-exposed bison from Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in order to qualify the animals as brucellosis free. These facilities may be located in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, or adjacent to the Parks in the adjoining States of Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming. State and Federal animal health officials must approve each facility. Facility approval is valid for 1 year and can be reapplied provided that all requirements are met. State and/or Federal animal health officials will select the serologic tests to be conducted, establish procedures to account for all animals entering or leaving the ABQF, and supervise all operations.

All bison entering an ABQF are considered to be brucellosis-exposed animals and must be permanently identified with official metal ear tags and placed under quarantine restrictions. Prior to entering the facility, all animals must test negative on official brucellosis serologic tests conducted at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) or at an approved Cooperative State-Federal Brucellosis Laboratory (CSFBL). All serologic and/or milk tests conducted in the ABQF are considered preliminary and must be confirmed at NVSL or at an approved CSFBL. Specimens or milk samples for bacterial culture must also be cultured at NVSL or at an approved CSFBL. It is recommended that test-negative bison captured during a single season entering the ABQF be placed in an ABQF holding pen until they can be sorted and penned separately into individual test groups (ITG's). The holding pens and ITG pens should be separated by at least two fences that are a minimum of 10 feet apart. When animals enter the ABQF, it is recommended, but not required, that serologic tests be conducted on every bison every 30-45 days while it is in a holding pen or ITG until each animal classified as a reactor has been removed and the remaining animals test negative. If the testing results in any bison being classified as a reactor, a subsequent ITG test must be conducted on the remaining animals in the ITG at least 30 days later.

Initially, this procedure will more readily identify reactor animals, minimizing the time spent in the ABQF completing the testing requirements to qualify for quarantine release.

All Brucella culture-positive animals and/or all animals classified as reactors must be removed from the ABQF within 15 days of being identified. Any bison removed from the ABQF before completing the requirements to qualify for quarantine release must move under permit either to an approved research facility or to an approved slaughter facility for slaughter only.

All bison that are classified as reactors because they tested positive to an official serologic and/or milk test or are confirmed culture-positive must go to an approved research facility or to an approved slaughter facility for slaughter only.

Each ITG must qualify for quarantine release following the procedures listed below before any individual bison within the ITG may be released from quarantine.

1. Sexually mature bison (3 years of age or older)

(a) Males-Male bison must pass a minimum of three consecutive negative ITG tests. The first ITG test must be conducted when the ITG starts the quarantine period. The second ITG test must be conducted at least 180 days after the first ITG test. There must be at least 12 months between the first and last consecutive negative ITG tests.

(b) Pregnant females-Pregnant female bison must complete two calvings within the ABQF. Pregnant female bison not born in the facility and continually penned within a test-negative ITG must be rebred in the ABQF following their first calving to a test-negative male from a holding pen or ITG.

An ITG test must be conducted when the ITG starts the quarantine period before the first calving, another ITG test must be conducted at least 30 days and not more than 90 days after each female has calved during the first and second calvings, and an ITG test must be conducted 6 months after the last animal has calved during the first and second calvings. Each postparturient female bison must have discharges, fluids, and swabs collected and cultured within 5 days after calving. There must be at least 12 months between the first and last consecutive negative ITG test.

(c) Nonpregnant females-Nonpregnant female bison not born in the facility and continually penned within a test-negative ITG must be bred in the ITG to a test-negative male from a holding pen or ITG, complete a gestation cycle, calve, and pass a minimum of three consecutive negative ITG tests.

The first ITG test must be conducted when the ITG starts the quarantine period before being bred. The second ITG test must be conducted at least 30 days and not more than 90 days after each female has calved, and the third ITG test must be conducted 6 months after the last animal has calved in the ITG. Each postparturient female bison must have discharges, fluids, and swabs collected and cultured within 5 days after calving. There must be at least 12 months between the first and last consecutive negative ITG tests.

2. Sexually immature bison (under 3 years of age)

(a) Immature males-Male bison under 3 years of age must pass a minimum of three consecutive ITG tests. The first ITG test must be conducted when the ITG starts the quarantine period, and the last consecutive negative ITG test must be conducted after the animals are at least 3 years of age. The second ITG test will be conducted at least 180 days after the first ITG test. There must be at least 12 months between the first and last consecutive negative ITG tests.

(b) Immature females-Immature female bison under 3 years of age not born in the facility and continually penned within a test-negative ITG must be bred to a test-negative male from a holding pen or ITG, complete a gestation cycle, calve, and pass a minimum of three consecutive negative ITG tests.

The first ITG test must be conducted when the ITG starts the quarantine period before being bred. The second ITG test must be conducted at least 30 days and not more than 90 days after each female has calved, and the third ITG test must be conducted 6 months after the last animal has calved in the ITG. Each postparturient female bison must have discharges, fluids, and swabs collected and cultured within 5 days after calving. There must be at least 12 months between the first and last consecutive negative ITG tests.

3. Calves-Calves born in the ABQF from a test- and/or culture-negative ITG of adult pregnant females may be released from quarantine at 6 months of age or older provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) there have been no reactor animals in the ITG immediately after their birth or within 1 month prior to their birth,
 - (2) all calves in the ITG are serologically test negative,
 - (3) (3) each adult in the ITG is serologically test negative at least 30 days postcalving and culturally test negative within 5 days postcalving, and
 - (4) (4) the adult animals in the ITG have tested negative on three consecutive herd tests over a 12-month period.
- For calves born to females that were pregnant at the time of entrance into the ABQF and/or calves born during a time in which reactors are disclosed, the male calves would be classified as "immature males" and be tested as in 2(a) above, the females would be classified as "immature females" and be tested as in 2(b) above, or the calves could be neutered and released from quarantine without restrictions.

4. Test- and/or culture-positive animals or animals that die in quarantine-Any aborted fetus, stillborn animal, or an animal that dies in the ABQF for any reason, will be necropsied, serologically tested, and have its tissues and other appropriate specimens cultured for Brucella. Tissue collection methods should be based on the sampling protocol outlined by the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (GYIBC). Any culture and/or serologically test-positive animal found in an ITG will cause the ITG to restart the quarantine requirements. Restarting the quarantine requires the ITG to be tested every 30-45 days until all animals classified as reactors have been removed from the ITG and a complete ITG test is negative. Bred female bison in the ITG that have been pregnancy checked and determined not be pregnant must be sacrificed, necropsied, and have specimens collected and cultured. In addition, a complete epidemiologic assessment will be made of all test-or culture-positive cases of brucellosis within the ABQF. All Brucella culture-positive animals and/or all animals classified as reactors must be removed from the ABQF within 15 days of being identified. They must be neutered, slaughtered, or moved to an approved research facility.

5. Breeding bulls-Bulls must be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days of being placed within an ITG for breeding purposes or be from an ITG that has qualified for a quarantine release.

6. Neutered animals-Neutered bison may be released from quarantine without restrictions.

7. Postquarantine requirements-The entire ITG must qualify for quarantine release before any individual bison within the ITG may be released to a group or individual in a State or area. All animals released from the ITG must be retested at approximately 6 months and 12 months after release to verify that they remain test negative. An agreement to test must be signed by the receiving owners or managers before the animals will be released into their custody. The agreement must also state that the animals must be kept separate from all other animals until the 6-month test has been completed. In addition, the State Animal Health Authorities in the State of destination must authorize movement into their State. Table 6 summarizes the testing protocols for bison of various ages.

Table 6. -- Testing protocols for bison, by age and sex

	Minimum tests required to release	Minimum test intervals	Minimum quarantine period
Sexually mature males	3	1st: start of quarantine period. 2d: at least 180 days after 1st test. 3d: at least 12 months after 1st test.	1 year
Pregnant females	5	1st: before calving 2d: between 30 and 90 days after each animal has calved during 1st and 2d calvings. Last: 6 months after last animal has calved during 1st and 2d calvings	1.5 years
Nonpregnant sexually mature females	3	1st: before breeding 2d: between 30 and 90 days after each animal has calved Last: 6 months after last animal has calved.	1.5 years
Immature Males	3	1st: start of quarantine period. 2d: at least 180 days after 1st test 3d: at least 12 months after the 1st test, and at least 3 years of age.	1 year
Immature females	3	1st: before bred 2d: between 30 and 90 days after each animal has calved. Last: 6 months after last animal has calved.	2.5 years
Calves*	1	One test at 6 months of age	0.5 years

* Calves born to females that were pregnant upon entry into the ABQF and calves born in an ITG in which reactors have been disclosed shall not be released as calves.